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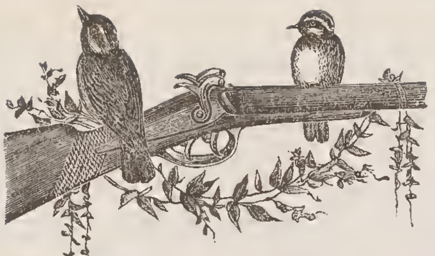
N. S. Goss. July 8, 1884



N. S. GOSS.
ROOM:
EAST WING STATE HOUSE.

Topeka, Kansas, July 8 1884

My Dear Mr Brewster

Thanks for "Notes on the birds observed during a Summer Cruise in the Gulf of St Lawrence" 1881 –

I have read the same with interest. It brings up vividly what I saw in the Gulf especially at the places touched by you viz the Magdalen Isles – Bird Rock – Bonaventure Island – Percé Rock and Gaspe – I think the last one of the finest Summer resorts on the Continent.

Finding the Ringed Guillemots nesting on the sides of and on the lower ledges differs from what I saw, but what I should expect and look for, nor do I lay much stress on the eggs being laid at all times on the earth that had fallen or washed down but do on the fact that they nested together as well as in the different markings of their eggs as given in my article in the Bulletin K. A. of S. (I will mail you a copy) – I shall look with interest for further Observations as I still cling to the idea the bird is not the Summer nor an exceptional Color of Lomvia troile!

Prof I have in my Col of 561 Races 1156 birds quite a number that differ from the species or varieties as given. I would like much the opinion of others – Should you make as I trust you will a western trip please arrange to stop off a day or two & I will try to make your stay pleasant – Sincerely Yours

N S Goss

Chatham Mass
Sept 11 '84

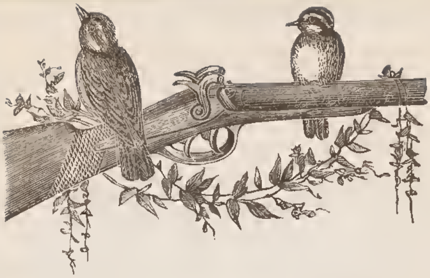
Dear Prof

Yesterday I shot out at sea eight miles east of "Pollock Rip" a female Stercorarius Skua. I think it a rare capture. Have any been shot along the coast? I have only Dr Coues Key which says "N. Am, northerly, rare or casual. California". On account of fog slept out last night did not reach home until 10 this morning. I have just finished mounting the bird. Your letter of the 7th inst is before me sorry you are unable to come down. Very good luck! Yours Sincerely

N. E. Gay

N. S. Goss

Sept. 11, 1884



N. S. GOSS.
Room:
East Wing State House.

Topeka, Kansas, Dec 6 1886.

My Dear Professor Brewster

Replying to your kind note of the 2 inst — I think now that I shall leave for Central America early next month. I cannot give the exact time until I ascertain when the Steamers leave New Orleans. My Address will be Belize British Honduras C. A. but as I go with guides into the interior, may not receive mail promptly, or before my return — I think you act wisely in sending a collector to Lower California and the Isles adjacent. If it was your self instead of a collector I would be tempted to change my mind and go with you — I hope some day to have the pleasure of entertaining you here.

Sincerely yours
N. S. Goss

N. J. Foss

Dec. 6. 1886

N. S. GOSS.
Room:
East Wing State House.

Topeka, Kansas, July 25 1887

My Dear Mr Brewster

Yours of the 20th inst is before me - Thanks for calling my attention to Audubons description of Harris woodpecker - I had taken it for granted that the white-bellied was the typical bird, instead of the Rocky mountain variety, which it proves to be - On your return please mail me the bird -

It is my intention to be present at the annual meeting of the A.O.U. in October at Boston -

I have been quite successful this season, among the rare finds, have collected seven sets of the eggs of the Mississippi Kite, a paper on the same will appear in the next Auk - I also made a fair collection last winter in Central America, among the birds, a pair of Meleagris ocellatus - I have now in the "Goss Ornithological Collection" 675 species and sub species - 1381 birds all my own work. May I not hope to have the pleasure of showing them to you?

Did you send a man as you talked of doing last fall to the Isles on the Pacific coast, and if so what success?

Friendly yours
N S Goss

Col. N. S. Goss.

July 25 – 1887

N. S. GOSS.
ROOM:
EAST WING STATE HOUSE.

Topeka, Kansas, Nov 5 1887

Prof Wm Brewster

My Dear Sir

My promise to send you the Eggs of the Mississippi Kite slipped my mind until today, and I now hasten to mail them. They are as I told you a very poor set, much stained and nearly ready to hatch. Next season I hope to procure for you a good set. The eggs were collected June 10 87 at Sun City Barber County Kans. See paper in the Auk. I leave on the 12th inst for the S.W. Coast of Mexico. Will take the steamer at Guaymas. It leaves on the 18th for Mazatlan. I expect to return the first of February. I often remember with pleasure your kind treatment and good time in Cambridge.

Sincerely yours
N. S. Goss

N. S. Goss.

Nov. 5 - 1887

N. S. Goss Feb. 24. 88

N. S. GOSS,
ROOM:
EAST WING STATE HOUSE.

TOPEKA, KANSAS, Feb 24 1888

Prof Wm Brewster

My Dear Sir

I returned from my collecting trip on the west coast of Mexico and Lower California on the 9th inst - My trip was a successful and pleasant one - I met Your Mr Frazar at La Paz - He was anxious that I should kill specimens of the Green Heron, as you had written him if the birds proved to be a subspecies that You would name it for him - I therefore take pleasure in saying that I killed three, I have a pair in my collection and the skin of a male - I have also read your description in the Auk and beg to assure that my specimens will bear you out in what you say - I also shot a pair of Beldings Rails - and I have no doubt but what I have in my Coll several new birds, but as I only have my own collection for reference dare not enter them as such - I regret that I have not near access to the Smithsonian Collection, I know Mr Ridgway would send me birds as he has kindly done, but I donot feel longer at liberty to ask him, for the following reason. In the Spring of 1882 I shipped through advice of Prof Baird my winters collection in Central America to the Smithsonian Institute - or rather in their care - the birds were kindly named by Mr Ridgway, and I (being present) gave the Institute 31 skins, and was promised a list of same with acknowledgment etc - The skins were all tagged with dates etc, but my name doesnot appear, and not wishing to have the gift wholly lost. I several times since when in Washington called attention to the matter - and last season I wrote Mr Ridgway for the list. In his reply he stated that he was so pressed with work that he couldnot send me the list under six months if then - and if he cannot spare the time to acknowledge receipt of same, It would be presumptious on my part to venture to trouble him farther. I donot speak of this in a grieved or fault finding manner - but to Explain my situation. You know it is impossible to identify or attempt to classify races without specimens from different localities before you - So I must content my self in the work that I am doing - and not look for or Expect any credit for new and rare finds, but I am happy in my work, I do wish you would come out and see what I am doing, you could help me so much, then I think I can get you transportation into New Mexico & Arizona on the A. T. & S F Rd - Sincerely yours N S Goss

I have 710 species & subspecies and 1447 mounted birds, all my own work

N. S. GOSS
ROOM:
EAST WING STATE HOUSE.

N. S. Goss
Mch. 10, 1888

TOPEKA, KANSAS, March 10 1888

Prof. [illegible]

My Dear Sir

After my hurriedly written letter at the [illegible] of February I received a letter from Guaymas in regard to the birds breeding on the San Pedro Martir Island, about eighty five miles N.W. from Guaymas and about midway in the Gulf of Lower California. I at once packed up and started [illegible] reached the island on the 14th ult. and remained until the 20th. The island is about 1045 ft high 1½ miles long and nearly as broad. The rock is covered with Guano from one to four inches thick [illegible] large force of [illegible] able to reach the [illegible] of the Reed [illegible] of the Red billed Tropic birds but it was almost impossible in [illegible] as they were in the holes and crevices on the sides of the cliffs and often more than [illegible] it was a little late, as the young birds were fully grown [illegible] they commence laying as early as the middle of January

I however succeeded in getting seven Eggs four of which are No 1.

I also found two kinds of Gannets breeding there by the hundreds. One a kind new to me, and I can find no description of it in the works that I have, I call it the Blue faced. It lays but one Egg - no nest - The others are without doubt the Booby, lay two Eggs and in all cases a few sticks etc around the edge of the nest - but very little material on the Island out of which a nest could be made. I have not a pair of the Boobys - Audubons picture represents the female exactly - The males are lighter in color ~~and~~ the head and neck ashy, whitish as you approach the bill - The other kind are larger, and alike in color, and as this is generally the case the Boobys have been so called, and the lighter colored ones treated as old birds - I will gladly pay $10, yes 20, dollars for a female bird with a lighter color. It may be a var of the Booby, but I think not - I have saved skins of each also 17 sets each of their Eggs -

No other birds breeding on the Island except Ravens. [illegible] of each kind of ~~[illegible]~~ Eggs -

Thanks for your kind letter of the 8th ult. but cannot [illegible] with the task of identifying so many doubtful birds, than in this way it would take so long. I cannot as I wrote you bear the thought of sending them to Mr Ridgway, but I believe I will fill my trunk with specimens, go to Washington and examine for my self. Mr R. has always readily given me access to skins, and will I know do so with pleasure. his excuse to me has always been want of time!

I cannot even write up the Gannets until I have seen specimens of the different kinds.

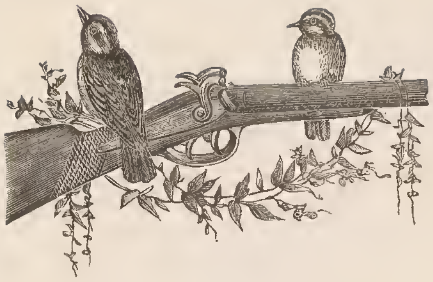
I am greatly disappointed to know you cannot visit the west at present. I shall however build upon the hope of seeing you here before many seasons pass.

I shall try hard to get you a set of the Mississippi Kites Eggs. Mine by accident are destroyed so I shall certainly visit their breeding grounds this spring.

You can keep the Woodpecker as long as you wish. If you on further examination have any doubts as to its being the true Harris's and the Rocky mountain bird a variety, I believe that I would so write it up, for the more I think of it the more confident I am, and I am sure it will be the case with you.

Sincerely yours

N S Goss



N. S. GOSS,
ROOM 9
EAST WING STATE HOUSE.

TOPEKA, KANSAS, May 5 1888

Prof William Brewster

My Dear Sir

I returned this afternoon from Washington - The two species of Gannets, or rather Boobies I wrote you about, prove to be new species - A full description will appear in the Auk - I will therefore only say that I have taken the liberty to call one "Brewsters Booby" the other the Blue-footed -

My visit was a pleasant and profitable one Mr Ridgway not only gave me access to specimens but kindly aid me in the examinations.

I will send you the eggs of the bird as soon as I have visited the breeding grounds of the Kites, which will be the last of this month - In haste

Sincerely yours

N S Goss

N. S. Goss

May 5 - 1888

In re new Boobies

N. S. GOSS.
ROOM:
EAST WING STATE HOUSE.

Topeka, Kansas, May 18 1888

Prof Wm Brewster

My Dear Sir

The eggs I promised to send you, just fit a cigar box - so I will mail them to day, and not wait to see what success I may have in collecting the Kites eggs -

The 2 marked + (a full set) Brewsters Booby -
" 1 unmarked (" " " Blue footed "
" 1 " (" " ") Red billed Tropic Bird -

The paper to appear in the Auk will give location etc -

I hope they will reach you safe -

Sincerely Yours

N. S. Goss

N. S. Goss.

May 16 - 1888.

In re Booby's eggs

THE GOSS ORNITHOLOGICAL COLLECTION.

STATE OF KANSAS.

N. S. GOSS,
Rooms: East Wing,
Capitol Building.

Topeka, June 4, 188

Prof Wm Brewster
Cambridge Mass

My Dear Sir

I returned on the 2nd inst from Sun City Kans, with 7 sets of 2 eggs each of the Mississippi Kite - they are all no. 1 - I take pleasure in mailing you a set as per promise -

I mailed you on the 18th ult a set of the eggs of the Boobies and of the Red-billed Tropic Bird. As you do not acknowledge receipt of same, I know you are away collecting -

I hope both packages will reach you safely.

Sincerely yours
N. S. Goss

N. S. Goss

June 3. 1888

Eggs of Ictinia miss.

THE GOSS ORNITHOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT.
STATE OF KANSAS.

N. S. GOSS,
Rooms: East Wing,
Capitol Building.

Topeka, Dec 2, 1890

My Dear Mr Brewster

Your kind letter in regard to guns (as we talked) is before me.

I will send my gun to day to Messrs Wm R. Schaffer & son, to be rebored. I do hope they will be able to make it shoot close. It cost so much do not feel able to throw it away - but it is of no value to me as it is. The gun should be targeted at forty yards.

Please accept my warmest thanks for the interest taken. If I can serve you in any manner you have but to comand.

Sincerely yours
N S Goss

N. S. Goss.

Dec. 2. 1890.